RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

APRIL 20, 1989

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

THE SECOND SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

MEET THE CANDIDATES

RNA is holding its third, and final, evening of informal meetings with the Jersey City mayoral candidates and their Ward C and D council running mates on MONDAY, APRIL 24, STARTING AT 7:00 PM AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE FACILITY. RNA has invited Anthony Cucci, Tom Hart, Bobby Jackson and Gerald McCann to come and speak to our neighborhood. Each mayoral candidate will have about forty-five minutes to present himself to our group with a speech and a question and answer period concerning citywide issues. During that same time, their Ward candidates will also be present to discuss our area's local problems and issues.

At the April 10th meeting, candidates Tommy Smith, Richard Boggiano and Thomas Fricchione spoke to our group along with their respective slates. It was a very informative evening because our neighborhood was able to meet the candidates face-to-face and exchange ideas and thoughts about the problems and the future of our city. The issues of local neighborhood development, building abandonment, crime, education, the revaluation, the need for greater budget control, tax abatements, the lack of effective and responsive city agencies to provide services (including the Police and Public Works Departments), the plight of the homeless, and the preservation of the Loews' Theatre were discussed.

The meetings will be at RNA's usual location: the Harbor View Health Care Facility. These meetings are for the members of RNA and the local neighborhood only.

APRIL 24, MONDAY
7:00 PM

ANTHONY CUCCI

TOM HART

BOBBY JACKSON

GERALD McCANN

ELECTION DEBATES

RNA is proud to participate in the organization of two important election events with the Coalition of Heights Neighborhood Associations and the Heights Interfaith Council. The first is the MAYORAL DEBATE that is going to be held on SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1989, at P.S. 8 SCHOOL. The following candidates have been invited and have agreed to participate in the program: Michael Bell, Richard Boggiano, Anthony Cucci, Glenn Cunningham, Thomas Fricchione, Thomas Hart , Bobby Jackson, Gerald McCann, Peter Murphy and Thomas F.X. Smith. The debate will begin at 2:00 pm and last for three hours. All the public is invited.The moderator for this event will be the Rev. John R. Allen of the Heights Interfaith Council. The debate will take place in the auditorium in the school, which is located on Franklin and Sherman Avenues.

The second event is a COUNCIL DEBATE FOR THE WARD D CANDIDATES. This event is scheduled for the following SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1989 at the same location P.S. 8 SCHOOL. The following candidates have been invited: Rev. Robert Alemy, Lyn Brozozowski, Thomas DeGise, Louis Destefano, Howard Fink, George Juchnewich, Marie Murray, Wanda Santana, Arnold Torturelli, Daniel Waddleton, and Theresa Gullace Walker. This program will begin at 2:00 PM and will take place in the school auditorium. The Rev. John R. Allen will also moderate this forum.

The public is invited to these two events to hear and see the candidates discuss the City's problems and their possible solutions.

The Coalition of Heights Neighborhood Associations is made up of the following groups: Beach Street, Hutton Street, Milton Avenue, Nelson Avenue, Reservoir #2, Riverview, South Street, Terrace Avenue, Webster Avenue and Western Slope. The Heights Interfaith Council is made up of the following churches: Central Avenue Reformed, Church of the Ascension, Grace Lutheran, St. Anne's Roman Catholic, St. John's Lutheran, St. Nicholas Roman Catholic, St. Paul of the Cross Roman Catholic, Second Reformed Church, and Trinity United Methodist.

INFORMATION ON THE WARD C COUNCIL CANDIDATES

(In continuing with RNA's responsibility to provide information to help our neighbors make their choices for the upcoming election, we have again excerpted an article from the Jersey Journal detailing the Ward C candidates backgrounds and positions.)

1) Charles Accurso, 36, a candidate on Mayor Anthony Cucci's slate and a lifelong resident of Jersey City.He has lived in Ward C for the past 15 years at Bergen Avenue, off Vroom Street, and works as administrative manager of the New York Health and Raquet Club in New York City.

Accurso defends the necessity of the revaluation, noting none had been done for 18 years. But he concedes that some property was revalued improperly and sees the solution in continuing to allow appeals. He says he would "have to study" the issue of tax abatements.

He would also like to study the issue of the proposed single-room occupany hotel on Academy Street. Accurso says he would like to see development in the area, but would be inclined to support his constituents' opinion on the issue.

He supports the idea of a center to provide services and shelter for the homeless. As a Franciscan brother in the mid-1970s, he worked extensively with the homeless in New York City, but he says that finding a location for the center is difficult because of the "not in my backyard" syndrome. He would have to study whether he supports the proposed Summit and Sip Avenues site, he said.

2) Lee Barile, 48, an independent candidate who has lived in Jersey City the past 18 years. She now lives on Summit Avenue off New Kirk Street. Barile works as a labor organizer and served on New York City Mayor John Lindsay's task force on early child care in the early 1970s.

Barile, a longtime housing advocate, opposes tax abatements to large developers, which she says add tax burdens on small homeowners and lead to a loss in city revenues and services. She would readjust tax structures to force developers to pay 100 percent of the revaluation rate.

Barile would also strengthen the city's rent-control law to include all non-owner-occupied buildings. Increasing housing costs stemming from the conversion of buildings into condos, combined with rising property taxes, are forcing out longtime residents, she said.

She would also oppose the proposed Academy Street hotel because "that's not what we need. We need affordable housing."

3) Arnold Bettinger, 39, a candidate on Tommy Smith's slate and a lifelong resident of Jersey City. He has lived in St. John's Apartments for the past five years, although he helped run his family's liquor store on Journal Square. He now works as an insurance agent.

Bettinger supports a review of the tax revaluation, saying that it was unequal. He would withhold city payments to the revaluation firm. He opposes tax abatements to large developers, saying the lost revenue hurts homeowners and results in a loss of city services.

Bettinger said he hasn't taken a stance on the proposed Academy Street hotel, but would vote with the "conscience of the people." He opposes the proposed site of the homeless center because he views the area as a future business center for the city. He argues the proposed site would bring in more tax revenue if used for other purposes.

Bettinger would organize more block watches against graffiti, and would regulate the sale of spray paint to minors by forming an agency similar to a liquor control board.

4) Patricia Carbone, 34, a candidate on Councilman Thomas Hart's slate, a lifelong resident of Ward C. She now lives in St. John's Apartments. Carbone works as a real estate broker.

The revaluation was improperly done and she supports a review of the new rates, she says. Carbone supports tax abatements to encourage development, but said she was not sufficiently familiar with the abatements given out by the city to comment on their merit.

She would oppose the proposed Academy Street hotel because she says it would infringe on the "integrity of a residential neighborhood." Carbone would oppose the proposed homeless center.

She would address the graffiti problem by forcing graffiti artists or their families to pay for clean-up. Carbone would encourage local businesses and homeowners to notify police if they see graffiti.

5) Michael Ciszewski, 27, running on Richard Boggiano's slate, lives on St. Paul's Avenue, off Summit Avenue. A chemical researcher, he grew up in Bayonne.

Ciszewski says he's running because "if you want something done right, you have to do it yourself." He stressed fiscal responsibility by the city and opposes tax abatements, such as those for the Newport Center development, which he considers to have been "tossed to the wind."

However, he supports a review of city departments to trim off the city's budget and a hiring freeze. Budget cuts would decrease taxes and increase services, Ciszewski said, although he could not point to any specific budget cuts be would make.

Ciszewski said he thought the Academy Street hotel might generate business in the area, but would oppose it if his constituents could make effective arguments against it. He would oppose the proposed homeless center, because it would detract from Journal Square's prospects as being a city business center, he said.

6) Nancy Gaynor, 50, a candidate on Peter Murphy's slate, is a lifelong ward resident. She lives on Highland Avenue, near St. Peter's College. Gaynor has been a

fifth- and sixth-grade teacher at St. Aedan's School for fifteen years.

Gaynor advocates a review of the revaluation to correct discrepancies. She supports tax abatements in disadvantaged areas, but says abatements given out on the Gold Coast have been unnecessary.

Gaynor says she is "totally against" the proposed hotel on Academy Street, because she thinks it would destabilize the neighborhood by attracting prostitutes and drug dealers.

The city needs to work with state and federal agencies to confront the problems of the homeless and she would support the creation of a shelter, she says. Gaynor, though, said she didn't know whether she would support the proposed site on Summit and Sip Avenues.

Gaynor also advocated the return of a police precinct to the ward.

7) Andrew Gumble, an independent council candidate, did not return requests for comments.

8) Edward Gunnell, 32, a candidate on Council President Glenn Cunningham's ticket, has lived in the ward all his life. He now lives on Wayne Street, off Baldwin Avenue.

Gunnell runs an interior plantscaping firm. He taught history and Latin at St. Dominic's Academy, and coached wrestling at St. Peter's Prep in the early 1980s.

He favors withholding monies from the revaluation firm until it is done correctly. Gunnell also opposes tax abatements to large developers, although he supports abatements if there is proof they would benefit the community.

Gunnell opposes condo conversion that displaces residents. He would offer help for those displaced to find comparable housing in areas close to their jobs.

He would oppose the proposed hotel on Academy Street, saying it would destabilize the neighborhood and attract crime. The area needs affordable housing, not a hotel, he said. He supports the proposed homeless center, although "it might not be popular." The city needs to increase services for the homeless to take them off the street, "and this is the only plan being presented," he said.

Gunnell advocates the return of a police precinct to the ward.

9) Joseph Rakowski, 40, a candidate on Gerald McCann's slate, is a lifelong resident of the ward. He Now lives near the intersection of Tonnele and Van Reipen Avenues. He works as a guidance counselor for Schools 3 and 5.

He advocates a reassessment of the revaluation and opposes tax abatements to large developers.

Rakowski does not have a position on the proposed Academy Street hotel and said he would vote according to the wishes of his constituents. He said the same about the proposed homeless center.

Rakowski, who organized free medical check-ups at the Journal Square Path station in 1980 and 1983, said he would provide check-ups again if he is elected. He would also stress fiscal responsibility in city government.

10) John Scafidi, Jr., 41, a lifelong resident of Jersey City, is a candidate on Councilman Thomas Fricchione's ticket. Scafidi has lived on Van Reipen Avenue the past 18 years. He is the assistant vice president in charge of Computer Processing and Research at Manufacturers Hanover Bank in New York City.

Scafidi, president of the Northern New Jersey chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He said he would stress increasing public awareness of Agent Orange and dioxin poisoning.

He supports redoing the revaluation, and opposes abatements for large developers. He criticized the 40-year abatement given to Newport Center as unnecessary, but said he would support abatements to revitalize depressed areas. He cited Martin Luther King Drive and Journal Square as two such areas.

Scafidi advocates strict penalties against graffiti artists and merchants who sell youths spray paint.

He opposes the proposed site for the homeless center because other centers exist in the area and because he fears an influx of homeless from New York City. Scafidi, though, said he supports increasing social services for the homeless. He opposes the proposed hotel on Academy Street.

11) Irene Zahylkiewicz, 36, a lifelong resident of the ward, is a candidate on Bobby Jackson's ticket. She lives on St. Paul's Avenue off Palisade Avenue. Zahylkiewicz is a troubleshooter in a travel agency's accounting department.

She advocates a new revaluation, and opposes tax abatements unless they "can prove it's going to help the entire community." Zahylkiewicz calls the abatement given to Newport Center unnecessary.

She advocates stiff penalties for graffiti and for those selling spray paint to minors.Zahylkiewicz would also increase recreational programs for youths, noting she organized the renovation of a playground on Palisade Avenue.

Zahylkiewicz opposes the proposed hotel on Academy Street saying it would attract crime and detract from the residential flavor of the neighborhood. She also opposes the location of the homeless center, offering industrial areas as an alternative site.

REMEMBER

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY:

MAY 9th

IT WILL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND CITY

HEIGHTS INTERFAITH COUNCIL
&
COALITION OF HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

MAYORAL FORUM

SUNDAY APRIL 23, 1989

SCHOOL NO. 8 (Auditorium)

FRANKLIN and SHERMAN AVENUES

BETWEEN 2 and 5 p.m.

MICHAEL BELL - RICHARD BOGGIANO - ANTHONY CUCCI - GLEN CUNNINGHAM -

THOMAS FRICCHIONE - THOMAS HART - BOBBY JACKSON - GERALD MC CANN -

PETER MURPHY - THOMAS F.X. SMITH

COUNCILPERSONS FORUM

HUDSON CITY (D)

SUNDAY APRIL 30, 1989

SCHOOL NO. 8 (Auditorium)

FRANKLIN and SHERMAN AVENUES

BETWEEN 2 and 5 p.m.

REV. ROBERT ALEMY - LYNN BROZOZOWSKI - THOMAS DE GISE -
LOUIS DE STEFANO - HOWARD FINK - GEORGE JUCHNEWICH -
MARIE MURRAY - WANDA SANTANA - ARNOLD TORTURELLI -
DANIEL WADDLETON - THERESA GULLACE WALKER

MODERATOR - THE REVERAND JOHN R. ALLEN

AN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DEBATE

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JERSEY CITY, N.J.
07302
PERMIT # 153
CAR.-RT. PRESORT

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS